

The Baldons and Nuneham Courtenay Newsletter



May 2020

EASTER LILIES



Sadly, with the closure of the churches we were unable to place lilies in memory of loved ones who have died.

However, all the names of those for whom lilies were requested have been beautifully recorded in our book of remembrance by Caddy Attewill. If you would like a loved one's name to be added to the book, please contact Veronica on vsandilands@btinternet.com or 01865 340562.

We are very grateful to Caddy for her work on this.

Christian Aid Week 10-16 May

Christian Aid and our partners already have experience of limiting the spread of infection during the Ebola crisis, and we will build on this experience to continue to stand together with communities living in poverty during this period. If infection rates start to develop as they are in Europe, then people in poorer countries will be hit even harder.

Many are already living with reduced health resilience because of extreme poverty, or in overcrowded humanitarian camps and in countries which do not have the healthcare infrastructures needed to combat widespread disease.

We will be working on the ground to help prepare communities to limit the impact of Covid-19. Please pray for us in this vital work, and although it is not possible to do house-to-house collections this year, please support us where you can by making an online donation.

Please see the Christian Aid website for details of how to donate online:

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week>

Cover Photos:

This month's cover photos showcase the beauty of nature around the Baldons : thank you to Kevin for the photo of the cherry tree and to Lizie for the flower photos: see the advert on page 13 for [Lizie's Country Bunches](#) to enjoy her flowers in your own home!

FROM REVEREND TERESA STEWART-SYKES

Idle; gerund or present participle: idling; Definition: spend time doing nothing
Similar: do nothing, be inactive, vegetate, sit back, take it easy, rest on one's oars, mark time, kick one's heels, twiddle one's thumbs, kill time, languish, laze (around/about), lounge (around/about), loll (around/about), loaf (around/about), slouch (around/about), go to seed, degenerate, moulder, stagnate, move aimlessly or lazily.

In this period of lockdown does this definition have any resonance with you? I find myself doing quite a lot of idling at the moment! That's not to say I haven't been busy; we've had Holy Week and Easter and I have had to learn to be a priest in a completely new way, finding new means of worshipping and sharing time with scattered congregations via social media, which I am not ashamed to admit has been a steep learning curve! I'm sure that's been your experience too.

But in between this frantic activity in front of the computer, I have found these days of lockdown disconcertingly vague. I've been idling, lounging about, marking time. Sometimes this has been lovely, especially with the sun out and the garden springing into new life. Other times it has been hard to sit back whilst others are desperately working to save lives in hospitals, or comforting the sick in care homes, or stacking the supermarket shelves so that people can buy what they need for their families and loved ones. There are many more for whom doing nothing means loss of income, a threat to their business, severe financial hardship in the future.

In such times we naturally look to familiar routines and rhythms of life to anchor ourselves. For the Church this Easter season is a time of revival, of fresh hope and new plans, it is the season when we say 'Alleluia' quite a lot! However, this year it is a time of waiting; our joy is suppressed for we do not know what the future will hold. We are idling.

Our anchor may perhaps be found not in routines but in people, in our families, in our communities. Our anchor may be in the small and surprising acts of kindness of our neighbours; the phone call to see if we need anything from the shops, the friendly wave as we pass each other whilst out for our 'daily exercise', the breezy chat through the safe barrier of a shared hedge! This too is our hope, we can believe that it will get better because when it comes down to it what matters to us is that we care for each other.

God's blessing to you all, may we share lots of hugs and 'Alleluia's in the near future.

Rev Teresa

The Revd Teresa Stewart-Sykes is Team vicar for The Baldons with Nuneham Courtenay, Berinsfield and Drayton St Leonard.

e-mail: RevTeresa@outlook.com and tel: 07823 809112

A clergy person can always be reached in a pastoral emergency by ringing the Dorchester Team Office 01865 340007



If you need help with shopping, getting medicines or just a chat please email baldonsinfo@gmail.com or ring or email one of the village coordinators:

Marsh:

Alison Porter - 01865 340405 / am.porter@btinternet.com;

Maddie Clark-Jones 07526 237461 / maddie.clark.jones@gmail.com

Toot:

Phil Collins – 07768 546139 / phil@philcollins.uk.com;

Jacquie Lake - 07974 218940 / jacquie@dedicatedwines.com

Little Baldon and Nuneham:

Anna Galliers - 07375 029 952 / seannarock@gmail.com

Madhvi Saini - 07887 614752 / sainimadhvi@yahoo.com

BNCAG are linked in with the Oxfordshire network of community support groups and can also provide up to date information regarding NHS and local authority services.

FROM OXFORDSHIRE CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP

New 24/7 mental health helpline launched

A 24/7 mental health helpline has been launched. Like NHS111, people can call when they need to find out when and where to get help and to access support from mental health professionals.

- For adults the number is **01865 904997**.
- For children and young people the number is **01865 904998**

People who already use mental health services should contact services directly using the numbers in their care plan.

DIY warning from our eye experts

During the lockdown for COVID-19, Oxford Eye Hospital, based on the John Radcliffe site, has seen an increase in the number of patients needing care for serious eye injuries. People are being encouraged to take extra care, particularly when gardening or carrying out DIY, by wearing eye protection when necessary, and locking up household detergents and chemicals away from children as they can cause nasty chemical burns, particularly to the eyes.

Domestic abuse support

Domestic abuse advice is being shared in recognition that COVID-19 related movement restrictions will be having a direct impact on many individuals and families. Existing abuse can escalate because of stress, anxiety and other challenges, whilst widespread health concerns and job losses may mean some people experience or use domestic abuse for the first time.

Oxfordshire's domestic abuse services continue to offer support and can help people at risk by finding safe alternative accommodation or by increasing safety measures to enable them to remain at home.

How and where to get help and support:

- Anyone in immediate danger should phone **999**.
- Or if in danger and unable to talk on the phone, dial **999** and then press **55**. This will transfer the call to police, who will assist without the caller having to speak.
- Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Services offers free advice: 0800 731 0055 (Mon-Fri 10am-7pm). Email das@a2dominion.co.uk
- Alternatively, call the 24-hour National Domestic Abuse Helpline: 0808 2000 247
- Anybody worried about causing harm to the ones they love can get help by contacting Respect Phonenumber - 0808 802 4040.
<https://respectphonenumber.org.uk/>

BALDONS PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Parish Council Arrangements during COVID-19 restrictions

As a result of the coronavirus epidemic and restrictions imposed on all of us the Parish Council is unable to function as normal but will continue to fulfill all its responsibilities. An extraordinary meeting was held on Monday 23rd March and the following resolution passed:

“Under the Local Government Act 1972 S101, the council empowers the clerk to do anything expedient and necessary to ensure the continuous business of the council, and to deal with mandatory undertakings in order to prevent the authority from incurring liability during the period from 23rd March to 1st June 2020”

The Parish Clerk and Chairman are continuing to deal with day to day business. Parish Councilors are working remotely by email and telephone. All planning applications received will be dealt with and commented on this way.

Meetings of the Parish Council

The Annual Meeting of the Parishes of Marsh Baldon and Toot Baldon on April 20th although a legal requirement was postponed to a future date to be determined; either later this year or deferred until next year depending on the extent of the restrictions and advice. The Annual Report of the Council together with the Treasurer’s report will be on the website for inspection.

There will be a Parish Council meeting On May 11 at 7.30 pm at a venue to be stated. This will be a normal business meeting but held by Zoom video conferencing. The agenda will be displayed as usual on notice boards and circulated by village email. The clerk will announce arrangements for villagers to ask to participate.

This meeting is normally also the Annual General Meeting of the council where the election of officers takes place. This year councils have been advised that they can postpone the formal election process for up to 1 year and councilors will be asked to adopt a resolution to this effect allowing the chairman and vice chairman to remain in post until May 2021.

Any villager wishing to raise an issue with us can do so by contacting the clerk Tom James via email clerk@baldonspc.org or Dorothy Tonge chairman at chairman@baldonspc.org or on 01865 343234.

Planning applications

Seven Stars Pub: P20/S0834/FUL. An application for removal of the chimney to improve kitchen space. The Parish Council has not yet responded.

1 The Croft: P20/S1078/HH. An application for a car port. Not yet commented on by councillors.

Planning applications approved by SODC include the building of 2 smaller houses on Land north of Hunters Gap, Pebble Hill.

Village Spring Clean

We were not able to run the village spring clean this year and may try and organize it later in the year. However, roadsides, footpaths and the green still have rubbish left around. Please can we seek the help of those of you out walking, both individuals and families. Please take a plastic bag with you and pick up a bit of stuff as you go. It all helps the village to look tidier as we go into summer and it can be disposed of in your bins.

Baldons and Nuneham Courtenay Corona virus Community Support

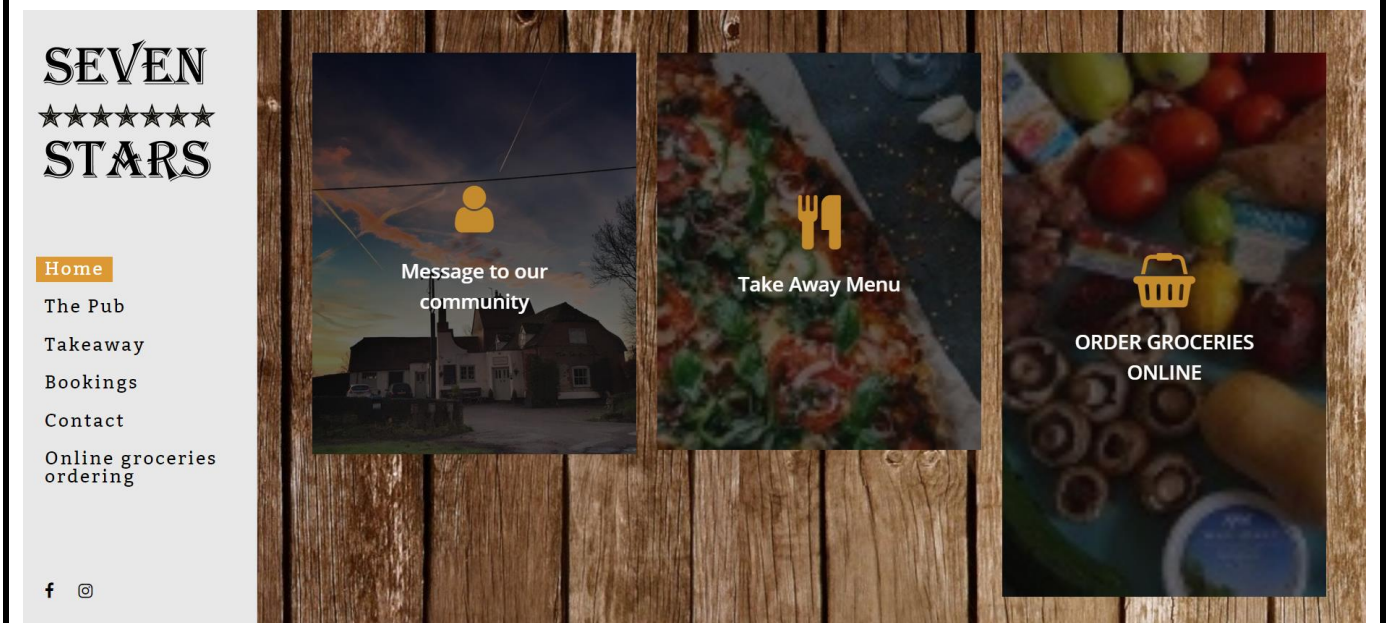
A big thank you to all the volunteers who so quickly responded to the anticipated need during this difficult time and organized a network of communication and support for those alone and in need. The Community spirit is alive and well in our villages and long may it continue. The Parish Council has been able to help the group secure funding of £1400.00 to help with purchasing essential equipment like masks and hand gel.

The Next Meeting of the Parish Council. May 11th 7.30 pm via Zoom video conferencing.

Seven Stars Shop

The Seven Stars is now offering a groceries and essentials shop via the website: <https://www.sevenstarsonthegreen.co.uk/>

Collections/deliveries Thursday to Sunday – order before 3pm the day before to be guaranteed availability.





THE BALDONS FUEL CHARITY

*Worried about paying the bills?
Struggling financially?*

For the past 50 years, the Baldons Fuel Charity has been helping some residents living in Marsh, Toot or Little Baldon with their energy costs. Financial support has also been given towards costs of education such as uniforms or school transport, personal alarms for the elderly or in any other situation when financial help might make life a bit easier.

The Charity had an annual income of about £18,000 last year.

If you are experiencing financial difficulties, or know anyone in the villages who is, please let us know. Either talk to one of us or obtain an application form for a grant from the Clerk, Mrs Barbara Wright (343276) or any of the Trustees. All applications are dealt with in the strictest confidence by the Trustees.

**PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU NEED HELP
THAT IS WHAT THE CHARITY IS FOR!**

Trustees:

Alison Porter (Chair) 340405

Chris Nichols - 343388

David Greenaway – 343496

Graham Hobbins – 343227

Ali Barne – 343624

Alan Johns - 343268

NUNEHAM COURTENAY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Parish Council Meeting Cancellation Notice

This is due to restriction on holding public meetings as a result of the COVID-19 restrictions guidance.

The Parish Councillors will be making those decisions necessary for the on-going functioning of the Parish Council. Where these decisions would normally be made at a Parish Council meeting, they will be displayed on the Parish Council website and notice board and whatever retrospective ratification is necessary will be made when the first public meeting of the Parish Council can be held.

In the current situation, there is no date for a future Parish Council meeting but one will be announced along with an agenda in the normal manner when circumstances allow. We apologise for this inconvenience but hope that you understand why we have had to take this action. In the meantime if you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

Madhvi Saini

Chair of the Parish Council

sainimadhvi@yahoo.com / 07887614752

16th April 2020

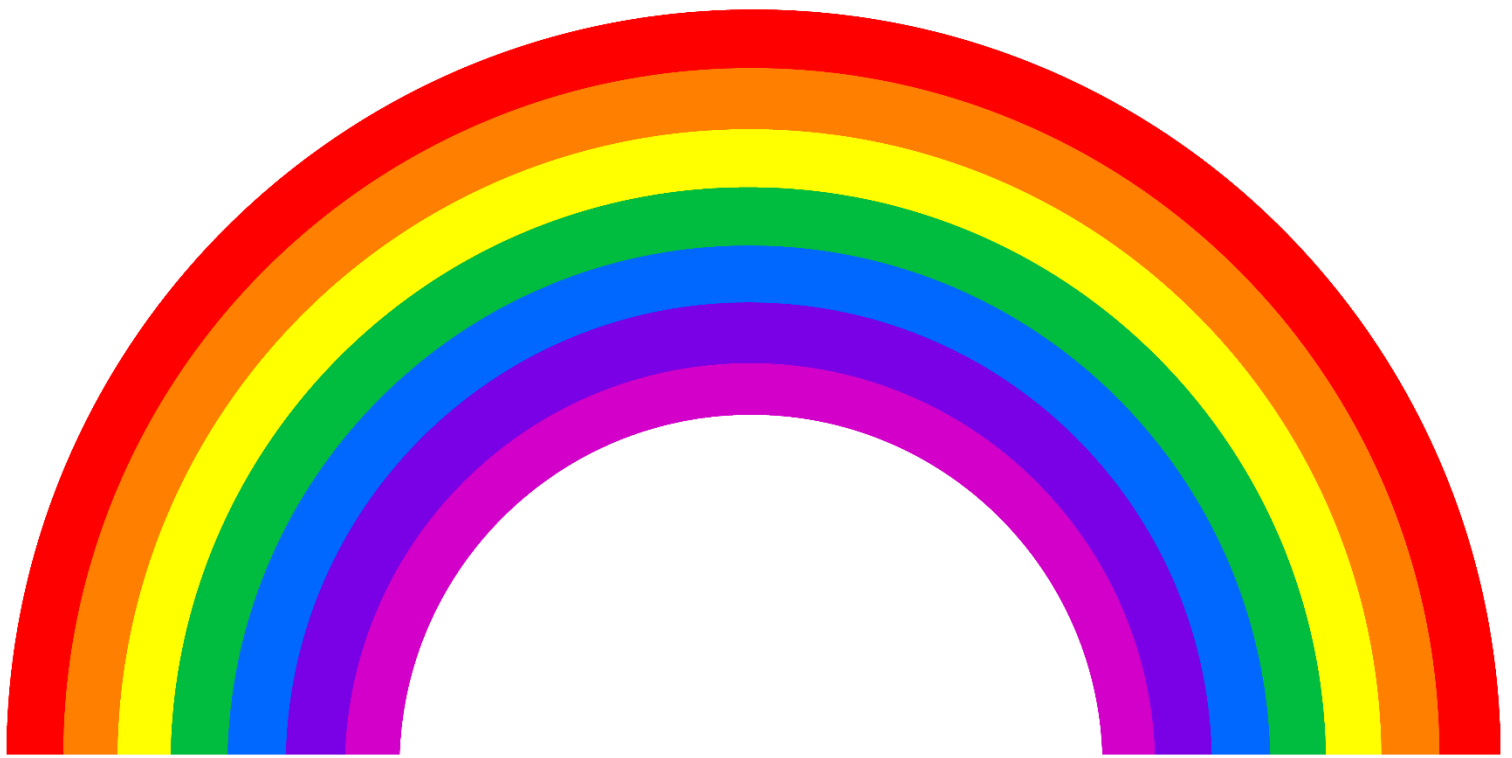
FROM THE LIBRARY SERVICE

Many of the things the Library has to offer have now moved online. Oxfordshire Library Facebook page is a great way to start.

You can find links to many activities, even **Reading groups** and **Rhymetimes** along with **writing competitions for poetry** and all manner of other ideas.

Don't forget there is also our **e-book and audio service**, you will need to download Overdrive or Borrowbox to access them and will need your Library card and pin number. You can reset your pin number if you can't remember it, by accessing www.libcat.oxfordshire.gov.uk.

You will also find **magazines** by downloading rbdigital. Our Oxfordshire Library web site offers a range of information as well as access to **music, information on learning a new language** as well as the Libraries News Letter.



THE BALDONS AND
NUNEHAM COURTENAY SAY
THANK YOU TO ALL OUR NHS
STAFF AND KEY WORKERS!



A MESSAGE FROM AN NHS WORKER

I am one of several villagers who work in the NHS, or other essential services, and I'm sure I'm not the only one who has received messages of support and kind wishes from other Baldonites.

The Thursday evening applause is a lovely gesture, and it means a great deal to me to know that our efforts are appreciated.

Several people gave said to me 'Let me know if there is anything at all I can do to help'.

The single most helpful thing, and something every single person can do, is to be rigorous about staying indoors except for essential trips to the shops or for medical reasons and one episode of daily exercise.

Combined with excellent handwashing, this really will work, and the better we are at adhering to these restrictions, the sooner this strange and concerning situation will come to an end.

Thank you

FROM OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL WASTE SERVICES

Waste management is a highly regulated area with potential for serious health and safety and environmental consequences if something goes wrong. If collections are disrupted, please do not make plans to collect and manage or burn the waste yourselves. Storing waste on unpermitted land is illegal as it can cause serious environmental pollution and you risk fines and/or a prison sentence. We are working as a county to ensure that waste collections will continue and that waste will not be left on the streets.

Thank you so much for showing your appreciation to our collection crews who are working hard to keep bin collections going, however please ensure that you respect social distancing and stay at least 2m away from staff to help protect both you and them.

Household Waste Recycling Centres are currently closed in line with Government advice on social distancing. During this time please do not fly tip your unwanted items at bring-bank sites or other locations. This is illegal and you risk being fined if caught. We appreciate that this is an excellent time to spring clean your house and garden, but please store any waste until sites are open again.

You can find out how to repair, donate or recycle items on the waste wizard: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/wastewizard.

FROM SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL WASTE SERVICES

We have had to suspend our kerbside collections for batteries, small electricals and textiles recycling service because the centres that would normally accept these items are currently unable to take them for processing. Please keep these items until the service has resumed and do not put them in the general rubbish or recycling bins because of the fire risk to bin trucks.

If the bins in your street are not emptied, please leave them out for up to three days (including weekends) and we'll try to catch up. If still not emptied, bring them back in and we will empty them on the next planned collection day.

We have suspended some non-essential services, including new bulky waste bookings, new garden waste subscriptions and investigating abandoned vehicles. We may have to suspend garden waste services: if this is the case, we will let everyone know through our social media sites and council websites.

Please wash your hands before and after taking the bins out to practice good hygiene for themselves and our bin crews.

Please don't leave waste in black bin bags next to litter bins to be collected, this is illegal and requires our teams to do extra collections and makes it harder to provide the residential and communal services the teams are continuing to do.



Lizie's "COUNTRY BUNCHES"

Thank goodness for our gardens!

The season is just beginning....and as usual I will have flowers in abundance all sown and grown in my cutting garden.

From £5 (a handful) to £35 (an armful) and everything in between!

Sweet peas will be ready soon....followed by endless other glorious flowers, all bright and beautiful!

I'm not currently able to sell at the markets but can deliver or you can safely collect from my garden gate.

01865 343219 or 07590 580631 or liziegiraudeau@gmail.com

ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Items for the June 2020 issue newsletter

by 16th May please

Any villager is welcome to send items for publication in the newsletter. Please send copy to Natasha Eliot: tashaandjames@btopenworld.com. Alternatively, I can be contacted on 343478 or at Baldon House East, Marsh Baldon.

For advertising queries, please contact Leanna Maggs on: leanna.maggs@gmail.com or on 01865 340 521.

Seven Stars Takeaway Menu

Call 01865 343 337 to arrange your collection time

ARTISAN PIZZA MENU (9" Base)

Pepperoni £12.00

Grilled Halloumi, Butternut Squash, Spinach V £12.00

Sweet Chilli Chicken, Onion, Sweetcorn £12.00

Spicy Pork, Jalapenos, Onion £12.00

SEVEN STAR CLASSICS

Beef Burger NGCI (A) £12.00

Seven Stars Burger Sauce, Baby Gem, Gherkins, Cheddar, Chunky Chips

Fish and Chips NGCI £12.00

Haddock Fillet, Gluten Free Ale Batter, Garden Peas, Lemon

Traditional Scampi £10.00

Chunky Chips, Peas and Lemon Wedge

Thai Spiced Veggie Burger VEGAN, NGCI (A) £12.00

Baby Gem, Sweet Chilli Sauce, Chunky Chips

Goats Cheese Salad NGCI (A) £12.00

*Baby Gem, Roasted Red Peppers, Toasted Almonds, Croutons, Chicory,
Smoked Paprika & Garlic Dressing*

SIDES

Chunky Chips £2.50

Carry Out Menu Available Wednesday to Saturday, 6.00pm-8pm

Please advise us if you have any allergies

NGCI (A) = No Gluten Containing Ingredients (Available)

(This Specification Complies with New Food Laws – Please ask for more details)

V = Vegetarian

Seven Stars Sunday Takeaway Menu

Free Delivery to Marsh Baldon, Nuneham Courtenay & Toot Baldon
£3.00 Surcharge to Berinsfield, Burcot, Clifton Hampden, Garsington
Call 01865 343 337 for Delivery or Collection

(Please call if you are out of delivery area to see if we can deliver to you)

SUNDAY ROAST'S

- Sirloin of Beef** NGCI (A) **£13.00**
Belly of Pork NGCI (A) **£12.00**
Chicken Breast NGCI (A) **£12.00**
Veggie Roast NGCI VEGAN (A) **£11.00**
Kids Roast
Choose from Pork or Beef (NGCI (A)) **£6.00**

SEVEN STAR CLASSICS

- Traditional Scampi** **£10.00**
Chunky Chips, Peas and Lemon Wedge
- Thai Spiced Veggie Burger** VEGAN, NGCI (A) **£12.00**
Baby Gem, Spring Onion, Sweet Chilli Sauce, Chunky Chips
- Goats Cheese Salad** NGCI (A) **£12.00**
Baby Gem, Roasted Red Peppers, Toasted Almonds, Croutons,
Smoked Paprika & Garlic Dressing

SIDES

- Chunky Chips** **£2.50**

DRINKS

- Bottle of Wine, Beer or Cider**
Ask us for Availability

Collection & Delivery Available Sunday 12.00 – 2.30




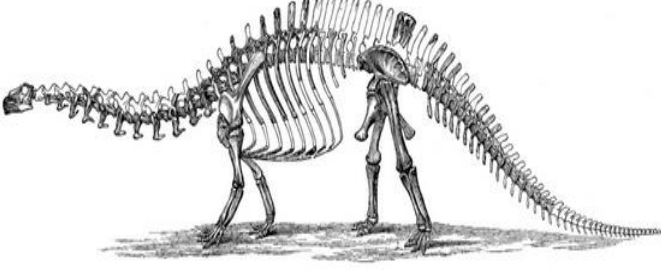
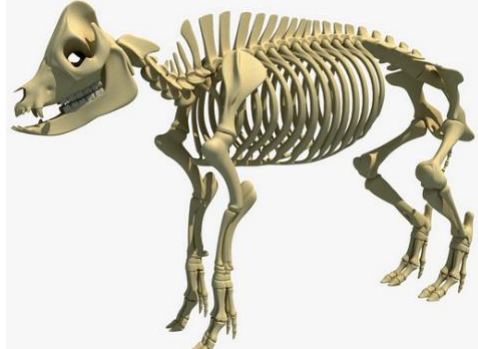



Please advise us if you have any allergies
NGCI (A) = Non Gluten Containing Ingredients (Available)
(This Specification Complies with New Food Laws – Please ask for more details)
V = Vegetarian



TWENTY QUESTIONS:

Here are ten skeletons – can you guess of what? And following that ten sets of initials of books. Email your answers to tashaandjames@btopenworld.com by 31 May and the first one out of the hat will get £30 to spend at the Seven Stars.

(With many thanks to James Bufford for the quiz and the prize).

(If you do not have access to email, please call Natasha on 01865 343478)

1. 	2. 
3. 	4. 
5. 	6. 
7. Human but whose? 	8. 

<p>9.</p> 	<p>10. From the children's series</p> 
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And the books - they're all fiction by the way...

11. THGTTG	12. FSOG
13. ATOTC	14. TKAM
15. HPATOOTP	16. OFOTCN
17. THOTB	18. TLTWATW
19. BJD	20. TSWCIFTC

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PAINTED STONES AROUND THE VILLAGES

You may well have seen brightly painted stones on your daily exercise in both the Baldons and Nuneham. These have been painted and placed by different parts of the community as a way to communicate with each other from isolation – **PLEASE DO NOT TOUCH OR REMOVE THEM** – but please do feel free to add your own!



Ben Smith

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required.



References Available Upon Request



VAT REG NO:
212 6529 30



It is with great sadness we are no longer able to hold Public Services and have had to close our Church Buildings

THE CHURCH BUILDINGS MAY BE CLOSED BUT NOT THE CHURCH

There are many opportunities to join us in services online in the Dorchester Team, the Diocese and also nationally

Details can be found on Dorchester Abbey's website and our church's 'A Church Near You' (ACNY) website. Regular services are also broadcast on the TV and radio and there are prayers and other information on the Church of England's or The Diocese of Oxford's website.

As we know advice is being updated all the time and current information will be posted to the websites. However, it looks unlikely that churches will be opened during May and so currently no weddings or baptisms are able to take place either. Funerals can be held at the graveside or at crematoria but with very strict limitations on numbers and following compliance with social distancing requirements.

We are committed to keeping operational the 01865 340007 number for everyone to call and to answering / responding to calls quickly from that number. If you know of anyone who just needs a chat, then let Rev Jennifer know on 01865 343302.

In these difficult and extraordinary times we continue to pray:-

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support the anxious,
be with those who care for the sick,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may find comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**And in this Easter season the Church proclaims
'Alleluia! Christ is risen; He is risen indeed Alleluia!'**